

WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY SANUSI ABDULLAHI (CL)
NASSARAWA COORDINATOR/CHAIRMAN NORTHERN ZONAL
BOOK FAIR COMMITTEE DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY
OF THE 2ND VERSION OF THE NORTHERN ZONAL BOOK FAIR
AT NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WOMEN DEVELOPMENT, ABUJA
HELD ON TUESDAY 30TH OCTOBER, 2007

Protocols

It is my singular honour and privilege on behalf of the Nigeria International Book Fair, the National Library of Nigeria, and the Northern Zonal Book Fair Committee to welcome our distinguished invited guests, especially the Honourable Minister for Education, the Chairman of today's occasion, the Key Note Speaker, other plenary sessions speakers, Publishers, Book Sellers, Librarians, Academicians, School Children, and all other dignitaries that are gathered here today to witness the official opening of the second version of the Northern Zonal Book Fair here in Abuja by our amiable Minister of Education.

It is no gain saying to state that such kind of events provide an avenue for crossfertilization of ideas between all the stakeholders in both the Education and the Book Industry, on how best books can be made readily available, accessible, and above all at subsidized rates to our Nigerian teeming populace for an overall improvement of our Educational Sector, and viz-a-viz the improvement of our already

lost reading culture among our people. One is therefore compelled to say that the fairs have come at no other time than now, when all efforts are geared towards the improvement of the Education sector generally in the country.

The first version of the fair took place last year in Kaduna with a very little success recorded. It is therefore our firm belief that tremendous improvement will be recorded during this year's fair.

Furthermore, I would like to extend my Committee's sincere appreciation for various supports and assistants recorded from various organizations, that have made today's occasion a success.

The Management of the National Library of Nigeria for making available the services of its staff on the Committee, and provision of refreshments to the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for all its meetings, the Management of Messrs Dantata and Sawoe Construction Company for making available funds for the payment of this venue, the Management of Voice of Nigeria for providing an all encompassing publicity to all our activities. The Management of Federal Radio Cooperation, Management of both Leadership Newspapers, Daily Trust Newspapers for covering all our activities/preparations culminating into today's occasion. The

Committee is also grateful to all other organizations, companies, individuals that have contributed to the success of this occasion.

The rate of responses record from all the participating publishing firms, Book Sellers, Book Exhibitions, Printers etc. have added a serious glamour to the event, we would therefore like to appreciate them most sincerely.

Similarly I would like to commend the efforts, zeal and determination of all the members of the Local Organizing Committee without which the fair would have been a reality.

Finally, I wish to most sincerely thank our Special Guest of Honour, the Honourable Minister for Education for having time to declare the Book Fair open. To the Chairman of the occasion, no amount of words can express our thanks to him for having time to chair today's occasion. To my colleague, friend and a brother the key note speaker, we thank you very much for an articulated and thought provoking speech. To all our other invited dignitaries, we pray that God in His infinite mercy showers his abundant blessings on all of us. We also wish to pray that our publishers/and other exhibitors as well as all other personalities will have journey mercies to their respective abode.

Thank you and God bless.